

## **REMARKS**

In response to the above-identified Office Action, Applicants amend the application and seek reconsideration thereof. In this response, eleven claims have been amended, no claims have been added and two claims have been cancelled. Accordingly, Claims 1-4, 6-17 and 19-46 are pending. The Examiner indicated a number of the claims contained allowable subject matter. Applicants have amended the claims to add subject indicated to be allowable to each independent claim. Applicants have amended certain dependent claims to put them in independent form including the subject matter the Examiner indicated to be allowable. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that all claims now pending are in condition for allowance. Applicants note that the amendments we made without prejudice to Applicants' right to pursue claims in their original form in a subsequent continuation application.

## **CONCLUSION**

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that all claims now pending are now in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited at the earliest possible date. If there are any additional fees due in connection with the filings of this response, please

charge those fees to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666. Questions regarding this matter should be directed to the undersigned at (310) 207-3800.

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR, & ZAFMAN LLP

Dated: November 11, 2004

By: Thomas Coester

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**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail with sufficient postage in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on November 11, 2004.

Susan M. Barrette  
Susan M. Barrette

11/11/2004  
Date